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## SHORTCOMINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN USSR CEMENT INDUSTRY

**BREAKDOWNS AND STOPPAGES -- Leningrad, Tsement, Mar - Apr 52**

The USSR government is aiding the Soviet cement industry by supplying it with new equipment, including large rotary kilns, tube mills, electric excavators, cranes, bulldozers, scrapers, dump trucks, and other equipment. Thanks to this new technical equipment, the prewar level of cement production was almost doubled in the postwar 5-year period, and labor productivity was considerably increased.

During recent months utilization of basic plant equipment in the cement industry has improved to a certain degree. Furthermore, the coefficient of utilization of rotary kilns in the last few years increased 35 percent and of cement mills, 34 percent; idle periods of equipment were cut in half; the average hourly productivity of rotary kilns increased almost 19 percent and that of cement mills, 38 percent.

However, a number of cement plants have serious shortcomings with regard to the use of equipment, and continue to have a large number of breakdowns and work stoppages. Among the plants utilizing their equipment unsatisfactorily are the "Proletariy" Plant, the Spassk, Kuznetsk, Podol'sk, Voskresensk, and several other plants.

Cement-making machines, which process large quantities of abrasive materials, require careful handling, strict observance of technical rules, and timely repairs to prevent breakdowns. A check of the above-named plants showed that over 80 percent of breakdowns and stoppages were due to violations of technical rules and faulty repairs. Such violations of the rules of technical utilization can be explained by the lack of technical training given to the plant personnel and by the absence of conditions necessary for a correct technological work regime. There have been cases where damage to machinery has been concealed and no proper investigations made, and this has finally led to a lack of responsibility on the part of machine operating personnel.

- 1 -

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The repair and machine shops of some of the cement plants are poorly equipped and unable to perform mechanical repairs. In a number of cases there is a shortage of measuring, cutting, and other kinds of tools.

The main administrations of the cement industry must take effective measures to eliminate shortcomings in the utilization and maintenance of equipment and to guarantee smoothly functioning operation of their plants. Special attention must be given to strengthening shop repair brigades with skilled workers of all specialties, so that machines may be checked at regular intervals and the necessary tools, materials, and spare parts provided.

New repair enterprises to service the Novorossiysk and Vol'sk cement plants, as well as cement plants in Central Asia and the Far East, must be established.

With the improvement of technical equipment and the conversion to remote and automatic control of machines in the plants it is necessary to employ engineers, mechanics, and power-engineering experts for the production shops of such plants.

The cement industry has successfully fulfilled the first-quarter plan of 1952 and a further production increase is anticipated.

IMPROVEMENTS AT GEORGIAN PLANT -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 27 May 52

The workers of the Georgian Cement Plant imeni Stalin have pledged an increase in the productivity of the rotary furnaces. This is to be achieved by attaching special devices to the furnaces, thereby producing 11 tons of clinkers instead of only nine as heretofore.

Work stoppage caused by apparatus under repair has required a great deal of time. For example, to change a part on a regenerator has required 8-12 hours, but since a change in the construction of these parts, this operation now requires only 10-15 minutes.

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- 2 -

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